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G	15	25	1	7

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE U.S. IN THE LAST YEAR TO IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS MADE AT THE HOUSTON SUMMIT.

Climate Change	Tab A
Ozone Protection	Tab B
Forests	Tab C
Marine Pollution	Tab D
Resource Protection	Tab E
Development & Financial Assistance	Tab F
Market-Oriented Approaches	Tab G
Scientific Cooperation	Tab H

CLIMATE CHANGE

In February 1991, President Bush hosted U. N. negotiations toward a framework convention on climate change. Rules of procedure, guidelines, and working groups were established for the negotiations by the more than 100 countries attending. The U. S. will be working in four to six more sessions aimed at signing a convention at the June 1992 U. N. Conference on Environment and Development.

President Bush has developed America's Climate Change Strategy: An Action Agenda built upon a series of specific actions which will have broad ranging benefits in a number of areas and will help curb net greenhouse gas emissions. Specific actions include:

- o Phasing out CFCs and other ozone depleting compounds, which are also greenhouse gases, more quickly than the amended Montreal Protocol;
- o Putting a permanent ceiling on sulphur dioxide emissions at reduced levels and allowing emissions allowance trading and other flexibility in meeting the ceilings. Both utilities and consumers will have strong incentives to adopt energy saving measures that will lower greenhouse gas emissions;
- o Reducing air pollutants which are greenhouse gases or their precursors: volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides;
- o Planting a billion trees a year in cities, towns, and rural areas across America and improving forest management;
- o Increasing the use of energy efficient technologies and practices in homes and businesses and increasing the use of renewable and non-fossil fuels;
- o Increasing funding for research and development of new energy technologies that conserve energy or do not cause greenhouse gas emissions;
- o Regulatory controls on methane emissions from landfills.

Since the announcement of the Action Agenda, the actions including in it have been expanded and augmented by a series of actions in the National Energy Strategy:

- o Expand NES transportation energy efficiency measures: (1) accelerate scrappage of older cars, (2) permit increased tax-free employer subsidies for mass transit, (3) pursue research to develop new transportation technologies, including electric vehicles, high speed rail/mag lev trains, gas turbine engines, intelligent vehicle/highway systems;

- o Expand electric energy efficiency measures: (1) increase Federal support for Integrated Resource Planning, (2) provide tax-free treatment for discounts on utility bills for energy conservation investments, (3) develop and implement energy efficiency standards for appliances, (4) require energy efficiency labeling for various products, including light bulbs;
- o Expand building energy efficiency: (1) increase public housing energy efficiency, (2) devise and apply new building energy efficiency standards, (3) expand the use of mortgage financing incentives for enhanced residential energy efficiency, and (4) improving energy efficiency in Federal facilities;
- o Increase use of alternative fuels: (1) remove caps on corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) credits for vehicles with alternative fuel capabilities, (2) expand alternative-fueled vehicles in Federal fleet, (3) require by 2000 that 90 % of new vehicles purchases for centrally fueled fleets must be capable of using alternative fuels;
- o Increase supplies of fuels that generate less greenhouse gas emissions: (1) remove constraints to natural gas production, transmission, and use, (2) reduce constraints to more hydroelectric power from existing dams, (3) extend through 1992 the investment tax credit for solar and geothermal electric energy technologies, (4) continue research and development for photovoltaic, wind, solar thermal, biomass, and geothermal technologies, (5) expand the use of waste-to-energy facilities;
- o Make nuclear power a viable option: (1) improve licensing procedures, (2) develop standardized advanced light water reactor plant designs with improved safety and economic features, (3) prepare comprehensive solutions to the high-level waste management problem, (4) develop two types of advanced reactor technologies with passive safety features;
- o Encourage deployment of more efficient clean coal technologies.

Without these National Energy Strategy actions it is estimated that U. S. greenhouse gas emissions would increase by 40 percent over 1990 levels by 2030. If both the actions included in the Action Agenda and those included in the National Energy Strategy are implemented, total U. S. man-made greenhouse gases should not grow from today's level through 2030. This is a one-third reduction below the levels that would otherwise occur.

OZONE PROTECTION

The U. S. has long taken a leadership role in addressing the problem of stratospheric ozone depletion. In 1978, the U. S. banned the use of CFCs as propellants in spray can products. Such use was considered a low value use which could be foregone given the potential damage which it was believed CFCs might be causing. Most other countries continued to use CFCs as propellants.

At the London Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol, the U. S. supported a complete world-wide phase-out of CFCs, halons, and certain other ozone-depleting substances such as carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform. The Protocol was amended to achieve that objective.

The U. S. has enacted legislative provisions in the recent Clean Air Act Amendments which will phase out U. S. production and consumption of ozone-depleting compounds more quickly than the amended Montreal Protocol provisions.

For each and every one of these compound groups and gases, the Clean Air Act reduces the allowed U. S. production and consumption between now and the final phase-out date substantially below what the Protocol permits.

Between now and the phase-out deadlines, the U. S., under the mandates of the Clean Air Act, must reduce U. S. production below what is permitted by the Montreal Protocol by at least the following amounts:

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| o | major CFCs - 19 % | o | carbon tetrachloride - 13 % |
| o | halons - 32 % | o | methyl chloroform - 20 % |
| o | other CFCs - 22 % | | |

In addition to the more restrictive phase-out schedules required by the Clean Air Act, the 1989 Budget Reconciliation Act enacted a tax on ozone-depleting chemicals during the period of phase-out. The tax rates on each compound are its ozone-depleting potential (ODP) multiplied by \$ 1.37 per pound in 1990 and 1991, \$ 1.67 in 1992, \$ 2.65 in 1993 and 1994, and an increase of an additional \$ 0.45 in each year after 1994.

This tax has already helped to reduce U. S. CFC production in the 12-month period ending June 30, 1990 to 23 percent below the levels permitted by the Montreal Protocol and other U. S. law.
[WILL BE UPDATED, IF POSSIBLE]

While these actions by the U. S. are justified by their benefits relating to stratospheric ozone depletion, they are also very highly significant for climate change. CFCs, halons, and carbon tetrachloride are extremely powerful greenhouse gases, thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

The Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund has been established as a means for assisting developing countries pay the incremental costs of eliminating ozone-depleting chemicals. The U. S. contribution will be 25 percent of the total \$ 160 to \$ 240 million fund. The U. S. was the first country to pay its contribution into the Fund.

FORESTS

The President's proposed National Tree Trust Foundation will mobilize private efforts and resources to encourage Americans to plant and care for trees in cities and towns. The Foundation has been enacted and funded with a one-time seed-money appropriation of \$ 20 million.

The National Tree Planting program establishes a long range forest management improvement and reforestation program for private non-industrial forest lands in rural America. In the fiscal 1991 budget \$ 70 million was appropriated to begin tree planting. The President's 1992 budget proposed full funding of of \$ ____ million to achieve the target level of planting one billion trees a year.

President Bush signed the Tongass Timber Reform Act which:

- o Withdrew 1 million acres of old growth, temperate rain forest from logging and designated 296 thousand of these acres as wilderness;
- o Repealed a legislative requirement that 4.5 billion board feet of timber be harvested each decade and the \$ 40 million annual appropriation associated with the required harvest.
- o Required no-logging buffer zones along major salmon streams.

The President's proposal for negotiating a global forest convention by 1992 seeks a worldwide commitment to responsible stewardship of the world's forests, promoting both sound economic growth and sound environmental policies.

To begin discussion of the key features of a forests convention the U. S. drafted "Principles of a Global Forest Convention". Included are "General Principles" describing the nature and structure of a the convention and "Specific Principles Relating to Particular Forest Concerns" suggesting areas which the convention should address in forest management and protection. Areas addressed are:

- o General Principles: Global Stewardship; Global Participation; International Cooperation; Comprehensive Coverage; Flexible, Performance-Based Approach; Use of Market Mechanisms; Integration of Policies;
- o Specific Principles Relating to Particular Forest Concerns: Sustainable Management; Conservation of Forest Diversity; Reforestation and Rehabilitation; Climate Change; Air Pollution; Indigenous Peoples and Established Local Communities; Fuelwood and Energy; Economics and Trade; Research and Inventory; Education and Training; Financial and Technical Assistance.

The U. S. also drafted a list of "Potential Actions to Implement Principles of a Global Forest Convention" for countries to

consider in developing their national strategies or plans for forest protection and improvement. The U. S. believes these principles and actions can serve as the basis for discussion and negotiation leading to the signing of a forest convention at the 1992 U. N. Conference on Environment and Development.

The U. S. and others asked for a strengthening of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP). Actions are under way to:

- o assess accomplishments, strengths and weaknesses to date, particularly the Plan's coordination and leadership;
- o revise the TFAP guidelines to represent concerns expressed at the Houston Summit relating to wise stewardship and sustainable management.

The U. S. and others strongly proposed that the International Tropical Timber Organization develop guidelines for sustainable management of natural tropical forests. The U. S. took part in developing the guidelines published in December 1990 and continues to work toward implementation of standards for sustainable management.

MARINE RESOURCES AND POLLUTION

President Bush signed into law comprehensive oil spill legislation in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Major provisions are:

- o requires double hulls on tankers;
- o establishes a \$ 1 billion fund to pay for cleanup of the environment;
- o increases liability of oil spillers;
- o requires better emergency planning and preparedness on the part of potential spillers and Federal, state and local governments;
- o gives Federal government the responsibility for directing the cleanup of major oil spills;
- o increases penalties for spills;
- o increases standards for navigational safety, including new standards for crew licensing;
- o increases research on oil pollution and on cleanup methods.

President Bush has developed a comprehensive initiative, Coastal America -- A Partnership For Action, to address environmental problems along the U. S. shoreline, by close cooperation among Federal, state and local agencies, the private sector and citizens. Three widespread problems will be addressed:

- o Loss and degradation of habitat;
- o Pollution from non-point sources, such as runoff from urban and agricultural lands;
- o Contaminated sediments.

The strategy for action will include:

- o at the national level: the development of biologically-based criteria to measure ecosystem health, a nationwide approach for tracking coastal management actions to provide for accountability, and a national focus on public education and outreach;
- o at the level of seven geographic regions: the Coastal America partners will flexibly address specific coastal problems of their region by establishing regional needs and priorities;

- o within each region: site-specific problems will be addressed on a watershed basis through cooperative efforts.

In 1990 President Bush postponed offshore leasing in several controversial areas, for at least ten years, until further environmental and resource analysis has been completed. This measure will affect 99 percent of the California coast, all of the Washington and Oregon coast, the southwest coast of Florida, and the Georges Bank area off New England.

OTHER SENSITIVE AREAS AND RESOURCES

The 1990 farm bill, signed by President Bush, continues to make progress toward protecting sensitive areas and resources by:

- o Continuing the goal of a 40 million to 45 million acre Conservation Reserve, helping to prevent soil erosion by paying farmers to take out of production for 10 years croplands that are highly erodible;
- o Strengthening the anti-swampbuster program protecting wetlands to protect 60 million to 80 million acres of fragile wetlands;
- o Establishing the Wetlands Reserve Program providing permanent easements to protect wetlands, for which the Administration requested \$ 500 million to enroll 600,000 acres during fiscal 1992 to 1995.

President Bush continues to create progress toward his goal of no net loss of wetlands:

- o Fiscal year 1991 appropriation for wetlands programs included a 17 percent increase over 1990. The President's request for 1992 for all wetlands programs includes a 48 percent increase over 1991 enacted levels, to a total of \$ 709 million.
- o In 1990, the President signed the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, authorizing the U. S. to spend \$ 26 million a year to purchase wetlands to implement aa 1986 U.S.-Canadian agreement called the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

President Bush signed the Antarctica Protection Act of 1990 which prevents any United States mineral resources exploration and development in Antarctica.

[Coastal Barrier Resource System?]

DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The U. S. has endorsed the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and pledges a 3-year contribution of up to \$ 150 million. The GEF has the objective of helping developing countries with the incremental costs of producing global environmental benefits as distinguished from benefits which accrue to the developing country carrying out a project.

The U. S. has sought increased World Bank emphasis on environmental impact assessments and action plans, energy efficiency, and sustainable development. It continues to encourage the Bank to develop environmental action plans for all member countries.

The U. S. has taken a strong lead in pressing all development banks to make more progress on environmental impact assessments. This issue was addressed in the World Bank and InterAmerican Development Bank. It was stressed by the U. S. in negotiating replenishments for the African Development Bank and the Asian development Bank and also in discussions with the European Development Bank on implementing environmental policy approaches.

The U. S. has pressed for improvements in policies affecting or related to forests and forest resources, both in the World Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank. The U. S. also pressed for reform and strengthening of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and for improvements in the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP).

In September 1990, the U. S. opened an independent, non-governmental regional environmental center in Budapest, Hungary. The center will address pollution problems in the region through education, training, and technology transfer.

In 1990, The U. S. and Soviet Union expanded an environmental agreement to include more than 55 projects in such areas as pollution prevention, environmental law, marine mammal and fisheries conservation, and Arctic accumulation of air toxics.

The Bush Administration proposed the Enterprise for the Americas initiative. A major environmental component will support environmental programs and projects in Latin America and Caribbean nations.

- o Countries can enter into a broad environmental agreement with the U. S. under which interest payments due on restructured concessional obligations can be paid in local currency into an Environmental Fund owned by the debtor country.
- o These funds will support environmental projects in the individual countries identified by local administering bodies made up of a majority of non-governmental

organization representatives. A public/private Environment for the Americas Board in Washington will help insure that appropriate local administering bodies are established and will review their annual programs.

- o A debt-for-nature swap component provides an important opportunity to support valuable ecosystems in the region.

MARKET-ORIENTED APPROACHES

Until recently, the U. S. used primarily a command-and-control approach to pollution control. While this approach served to abate the largest and most obvious forms of pollution, it did not allow the flexibility needed to find and implement the least-cost ways to reduce pollution, nor did it encourage innovation. Further progress in environmental protection will entail substantially higher costs unless close attention is paid to cost minimization and innovation. Hence, market incentives, which promise environmental benefits at lower cost, are being given much attention:

- o The U. S. Clean Air Act acid rain program is the first large-scale use of market incentives in environmental protection. Sulphur dioxide emissions allowances consistent with overall emissions limitations will be allocated to electric utilities which can trade them as follows:
 - oo a utility that can reduce its emissions below its allowable level at low cost can do so and then can sell its surplus allowances;
 - oo utilities can use the least expensive means of pollution control - energy conservation, different fuels, new technology, as long as they meet their emission limitations;
 - oo a utility can purchase surplus allowances from another utility if it finds that its cost of reducing emissions is higher than the cost of purchasing surplus allowances;
 - oo Setting goals nationally, while providing to plant and business managers, who know their operations best, the flexibility to choose methods that work for them will achieve air pollution goals at the lowest possible cost.

The U. S. is using market mechanisms to reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances (CFCs) under the Montreal Protocol.

- o Producers receive tradable allowances in proportion to their base period market shares.
- o As supply is restricted under the Protocol or the more stringent Clean Air Act requirements, and as substitutes are developed, trades of scarce allowances can occur between producers supplying lower-valued and more easily substituted uses and those supplying more highly valued and less easily substituted uses.

The 33/50 Project is a voluntary program to have 600 U. S. companies reduce by one-third the pollution caused by releases of

17 high-priority chemicals by 1992, and to reduce them by one-half by 1995.

President Bush established by Executive Order, in December 1990, the President's Commission on Environmental Quality. The Commission, made up of leaders from the educational, business, and environmental communities, will build public-private partnerships to help achieve concrete results in pollution prevention, conservation, education, and international cooperation.

In 1990, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) helped to create a \$ 100 million privately owned and managed investment fund to support new and developing enterprises in developing countries that practice prudent environmental management. Investment, supported by OPIC's \$ 40 million contribution to the fund, will be directed to:

- o sustainable agriculture and forest management;
- o ecologically oriented tourism;
- o renewable and alternative energy technologies; and
- o pollution prevention technologies.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

- o The U. S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) was funded in fiscal 1990 at \$ 659 million and at \$ 955 million in 1991. The President's budget for fiscal 1992 proposed an increase to \$ 1.2 billion.
- o The USGCRP has been established in cooperation with such intergovernmental organizations as the International Council of Scientific Unions, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, and others.
- o The proposed 1992 program explicitly supports international research activities and regional scale U. S. research activities that will address issues identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- o High priority is given to supporting efforts of the World Climate Research Programme and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme. The U. S. provides about 50 percent of the financial support for these programs.
- o The proposal for fiscal 1992 includes \$ 17 million for economic research. This funding will begin to reduce the very substantial uncertainties about the economic sources of climate change, the effects of climate change on human economic activities, and the economic and other implications of actions which might be taken to address climate change.
- o An additional \$ 2 million is requested to establish International Institutes to carry on and to coordinate international scientific and economic research on global change.

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

AC/ER

June 7, 1991

THE CHIEF of STAFF
has seen

MEMORANDUM FOR GOVERNOR SUNUNU

FROM:

EDE HOLIDAY

ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT:

Report on Environmental Policy Review Group
Meeting -- June 5, 1991

The Environmental Policy Review Group (EPRG) met this week to discuss the following matters:

Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy

The EPRG reviewed the latest draft of an Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (Strategy) produced by the eight Arctic countries: the U.S., the U.S.S.R., Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Finland, Denmark and Canada. While not legally binding, the Strategy establishes principles, policies and an action plan that the Arctic countries are expected to endorse at an upcoming Ministerial meeting.

Concerns were expressed about the impact the Strategy might have on future oil exploration in ANWR and about whether it implies U.S. support for certain international protocols which the U.S. has not signed. Changes were recommended to address these concerns. The EPRG also gave direction on those changes that must be accepted by the Arctic countries as a precondition for U.S. approval of the Strategy.

Action: The negotiating instructions will be circulated to the EPRG for comment. If the changes are made, the U.S. will sign the Strategy and issue a signing statement setting forth the U.S. understanding of its purpose and effect.

Antarctic Environmental Agreement

The EPRG also received a briefing on the status of negotiations on a comprehensive environmental protocol to the Antarctic Treaty. Agreement has been reached on several general environmental protection measures that are based on U.S. initiatives, including waste disposal, environmental impact assessments and marine pollution prevention. The remaining issue is minerals exploration.

The current proposal regarding minerals activity (except research) would impose a permanent ban that could be reviewed after 50 years. Any amendment to modify or lift the ban would require ratification by all 26 original parties to the Antarctic Treaty. The practical effect of the consensus requirement is to make the ban permanent.

All parties to the Antarctic Treaty except the U.S. support the proposal -- the U.S. is isolated in its support for a less onerous moratorium. In addition, there is growing support in Congress for imposing a permanent ban. Secretary Baker has concerns with the proposal and the State Department is considering an alternative procedure for modifying or lifting the ban that would require less than complete consensus.

New England Environmental Conference

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than 1500 environmental activists from New England, the rest of the United States and around the world gathered for the 13th annual New England Environmental Conference held March 16-17, 1991 at Tufts University in Medford, MA.

Hosted by the New England Environmental Network (NEEN), the conference was designed to assist local, national and international activists in establishing the infrastructure for successful environmental campaigns at the regional, national and global levels.

While speakers at the conference plenary sessions represented a broad spectrum of environmental interests, they, like the majority of the activists in attendance seemed to be primarily drawn from the "intellectual elite" of the mainstream environmental movement. As a result, the conference focussed more on broad theoretical approaches to global environmental policy, than on direct action tactics or campaign strategies. The speakers were unanimous, however, in their conviction that new approaches to environmental problems must be found. Increased political activity by environmentalists at the national and international levels was promoted as a first step toward the resolution of pressing environmental problems.

While a broad range of issues were examined over the two day period, several themes resonated throughout the conference:

- o the need for more concerted effort and involvement by environmentalists in political campaigns, elections and the legislative process;
- o the need for environmental policy makers to "more sensitively" address First World vs. Third World economic inequities, when developing global environmental policy;
- o a strong condemnation of the Bush Administration's National Energy Strategy, its reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear energy, and the proposed opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling; and
- o frustration with the Bush Administration on various issues; including global warming and Persian Gulf policy;

In addition plenary sessions each day, more than 50 issue workshops were held during the conference. These workshops, most of which took the form of panel discussions or lectures, were

from
Barbara
Keating-dell

instructional sessions designed to teach conference attendees, to expand their knowledge of different issues and to familiarize them with various tactics available to environmental activists and their organizations for use in pursuit of specific policy aims.

The most significant issue workshops covered:

Air Pollution - Clean Air Act

Citizen Action

National Energy Strategy

Environmental Education

Global Action Network (GAN)

Global Warming

No Net Loss of Wetlands

Recycling/Source Reduction

User Fees: Pay as You Throw

Toxic Use Reduction

David and Goliath: Successfully Tackling Corporate America on Issues of Conservation

Environmentalism in Politics: Running on an Environmental Platform

Environmental Fundraising: Meeting the Challenge of the 1990s

National Environmental Policy Act

Diversifying the Environmental Movement

Energy and Its Effect on World Security

Brazil - The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development - 1992

International Environmental Economics

Zero Pollution Discharge - A Goal For 2000: New Efficiency in Industry

International Environmental Policy And Law

International Environmental Education and Communication

The Role of Environmentalists in Campaigns and Elections

Environmental Action on College Campuses

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

New England Environmental Network (NEEN)

The primary sponsoring organization for the conference was the New England Environmental Network (NEEN), a loose coalition of more than 400 citizen groups, environmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses and industries. NEEN is a project of the Environmental Citizenship Program at Tufts' Lincoln Filene Center. The program is designed to "provide citizens with the skills required for them to be actively involved in shaping environmental policies."

The annual New England Environmental Conference is the premier event for NEEN. The Network also produces publications including a quarterly newsletter, offers courses on environmental topics and sponsors frequent forums on environmental issues.

According to Nancy W. Anderson, director and driving force behind the Network, NEEN "serves as a model for the establishment of similar networks in our country and the world." Anderson said she motivated by the conviction that improved communication between non-government organizations is essential if progress is to be made on environmental global environmental problems:

During the 1990s we must produce the regional, national and international consensus necessary to secure the earth as a safe habitat. People across the world must demand that governments and industries assume their responsibilities to protect the environment for future generations. ...As more and more people throughout the world become aware of the urgency of environmental problems, we can build upon the networking that has gone on in New England for the past twelve years.

Global Action Network

The Global Action Network (GAN) is a new feature of the Lincoln Filene Center's Environmental Citizenship Program and was heavily promoted at the conference. GAN is a computerized environmental education and communication system which provides up-to-date legislative information on environmental issues 24-hours-a-day to any activist with a computer modem. Mail memberships are available for those who do not have access to a computer.

GAN consolidates information from environmental organizations, congressional offices and research institutions. It provides summaries of information relevant to environmental issues, background statistics, reference listings of legislation, recommended organizational and audio-visual resources, and a thoroughly researched bibliography for each issue.

The service also provides recommendations for individual and group action to influence legislative decisions. Draft letters to elected officials are provided along with the names and addresses of officials to be contacted.

Conference attendees were given promotional material explaining GAN and were encouraged to make use of this new tool to influence their legislators.

CONFERENCE PLENARY SESSIONS

The conference plenary sessions were held in Tufts' Cohen Auditorium. The auditorium seats more than 1,000 people and was filled to capacity both days. Overflow seating was offered in a large room just outside the auditorium with video/audio link-up to the main auditorium.

OPENING REMARKS

Nancy W. Anderson, Director of the New England Environmental Network opened the conference with welcoming remarks and introduced Dr. John Meier, President of Tufts University.

Meier is a prominent advocate of environmental programs and curricula on college campuses and has been aggressive in encouraging other university presidents to expand their environmental course offerings and extra-curricular programs. Meier believes that environmental issues must be integrated into all educational disciplines. He is urging other university

presidents across the country to adopt a higher profile with regard to environmental education. Meier spoke briefly about his efforts in this area and exhorted the university students in the audience to pressure their respective school administrations to introduce new environmental course offerings and university policies that encourage environmental stewardship.

Robert Hollister, Director of the Lincoln Filene Center, welcomed the participants to this "annual town meeting on the environment" identified "two important challenges" confronting the contemporary environmental movement.

According to Hollister, the first challenge is to diversify the movement to encompass more than the almost exclusively upper-middle class, white, college educated membership it currently attracts.

The second challenge Hollister cited is to "build ties to corporate environmentalists" and find ways to include business and industry in the environmental movement. Hollister's call for conciliation and cooperation between environmental groups and the private sector, while thoughtfully presented, was not echoed in any other speaker's remarks. Nor were the two challenges issued by Hollister explored or responded to in any detail in any of the conference sessions or speeches which followed.

SPEECHES

The keynote speaker of the conference was **J. Gustave (Gus) Speth**, President of the World Resources Institute. Other speakers at conference plenary sessions included:

- o **Dr. Frances Spivy-Weber**, Director of International Issues, National Audubon Society
- o **Nathaniel arap Chumo**, Director, Eastern Africa Environmental Network
- o **Senator Timothy Wirth** (D-CO)
- o **J. William Futrell**, President, Environmental Law Institute
- o **Dr. Henry W. Kendall**, Chairman of the Board, Union of Concerned Scientists
- o **Michael Atchia**, Chief, Environmental Education and Training Unit, United Nations Environment Programme

- o Elizabeth E. May, Executive Director, Cultural Survival
- o Dr. Noel J. Brown, Director, North American Liaison Office, United Nations Environment Programme

Summaries of each speaker's remarks follow:

J. Gustave Speth

Speth is President of the Washington-based World Resources Institute. He opened his remarks by complimenting Dr. Meier and Tufts University for "leading the change in environmental studies throughout the country." He credited NEEN members with "alerting us to" the dangers of nuclear power, the loss of vital wetlands and the problem of acid rain.

"The only good news about the state of our planet," said Speth, "is that so many people are becoming aware of the bad news." He asserted that the magnification and proliferation of environmental problems over the past 20 years makes clear that "new approaches are required or we will lose this battle for the survival of the planet." "The only way toward a sustainable future is making several earth-shaking changes now," said Speth.

The changes advocated by Speth proceed from his premise that "environmentalism must spread as a creed and a code to permeate every aspect of economic activity."

Speth outlined five "necessary megatrends" for the transition to a sustainable future:

1. A demographic transition to population stability must take place. Specifically, Speth called for the U.S. to "get behind universal access to family planning" and to make such access a litmus test for other countries' receipt of U.S. foreign aid.
2. A transition to environmentally benign technologies and alternative energy sources. "Technology must become a new environmental friend," said Speth. He advocated increasing fuel efficiency as a first step and urged that this be followed by a transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. Speth called for a "realistic and serious" National Energy Strategy (NES) with genuine economic and regulatory incentives for energy conservation. (Speth received an ovation for this statement.)

Speth criticized the NES, saying that even according to DOE's optimistic projections, the NES will entail:

- a 20 percent increase in oil imports,
- 50 percent higher coal use,
- a 25 percent increase in CO2 emissions, and
- the opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling. Speth said this "cannot be allowed to happen."

Another step advocated by Speth, is the "greening of the automobile," (converting cars to be powered by hydrogen and electricity).

3. An economic transition to a world in which prices reflect true environmental costs. Toward this end, Speth called for "axing the subsidies for timber production and pesticide use. He advocated "environmental user fees" that would be levied on polluting companies and those using virgin materials in their manufacturing processes. Speth also urged the initiation of a "carbon tax" in order to discourage the use of non-renewable fossil fuels.
4. A global shift toward social equity. In Speth's view, such a shift would involve "a more fair sharing of [the planet's] environmental and economic benefits." Speth asserted that the "greatest destroyer of the environment is poverty" and urged the expansion of financial resources available for sustainable development.

Speth decried current U.S. aid policies for sustainable development, observing that the U.S. is "dead last" in the Organization for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD) in aid giving figured as a percentage of Gross National Product.

Using the example of Latin America, Speth called on the Bush Administration to announce that it would increase aid to and assist any country that develops a national strategy to help bring the loss of tropical forests under control.

5. Finally, Speth called for a "transition in

consciousness to an understanding of what it will take" to resolve pressing environmental issues. Speth called for increased "investment in knowledge and environmental research," and for "leaders to begin setting good examples in their own lifestyles." (This thinly-veiled criticism of the President was met with applause and cheers from the audience.)

Dr. Frances Spivey-Weber

Dr. Spivey-Weber, Director of International Issues for the National Audubon Society, delivered brief remarks entitled "On the Road to Brazil." Spivey-Weber began by explaining the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in very basic terms. She described the event as an "Earth Summit" and said that business, government and environmental leaders would all come together in the 1992 Brazil meeting to establish global environmental policy. It became apparent very quickly that Spivey-Weber had underestimated the intellectual capacity of her audience. She attempted to build enthusiasm for her topic by leading the crowd in an "UNCED cheer." Spivey-Weber's speech was poorly prepared, uninformative and not well received by the audience.

Senator Timothy E. Wirth (D-CO)

Sen. Wirth spoke from a prepared text which he has been using at various environmental forums over the past several months. He seemed a bit distracted and read the speech without feeling, but nonetheless received a very enthusiastic reception from the audience.

Wirth opened with the observation that the general public is becoming more and more aware that "we are on a collision course with the globe" and said that the efforts of environmentalists in New England and across the country are "writing an epitaph" for the "me decade" and its pattern of selfish consumption.

According to Wirth, the U.S. "faces only one superpower on a global scale, and it is nature." Claiming that environmental security has re-defined international security, Wirth listed six "danger signs" which he says signal the degradation of the earth's environment.

1. The loss of arable land on a global scale due to development and erosion.

2. The growing hole in the ozone layer.
3. The decimation of the rainforests.
4. The rapid loss of fresh water reservoirs due to overuse and pollution.
5. Increased levels of CO2 in the atmosphere and global warming.
6. Population growth rates that are outstripping the earth's shrinking supply of natural resources.

The primary focus of Wirth's remarks was domestic energy policy. He contended that "our appetite for energy is consuming our future" and that "we are becoming our children's most dangerous enemies." According to Wirth, the "most imperative goal of the 1990's is the effective integration of environmental and energy policy."

Wirth criticized the NES, saying "it does not deserve to be called a strategy unless our strategy is to delay and evade." (This line drew prolonged and enthusiastic applause from the audience.)

According to Wirth, a realistic NES needs three things:

- o More emphasis on energy efficiency and conservation.
- o An overall approach that is more balanced environmentally.
- o Increased reliance on alternative fuels.

Wirth criticized the Department of Energy for advocating the opening of the ANWR to oil and gas exploration saying, "This is an area which must not be drilled." (Another prolonged ovation followed this statement.)

J. William Futrell

Futrell is President of the Washington-based Environmental Law Institute (ELI). ELI has a staff of 70 full-time and 100 part-time attorneys. The organization assists in the development of environmental regulations and in the prosecution of illegal polluters worldwide. The topic of Futrell's remarks was "Building a Network of Environmental Law Centers Worldwide." Futrell came across as energetic, committed and moderate in his

politics. He appears to be very bright and is an effective speaker.

Futrell began his remarks with two observations:

- o The key to any kind of networking is the interpersonal links and relationships established between individuals.
- o International Environmental Law is about to "explode" (Futrell postulates that the 1992 UNCED meetings in Brazil will fuel the development of international environmental regulation.)

Futrell said that the best work being done in the U.S. on international environmental law is that done by Professor Nick Robinson of the Pace Law School and Professor John Bonine of the University of Oregon. (According to Futrell, Bonine's work is made possible in part by a \$500,000 grant from the W. Alton Jones Foundation. Futrell's ELI recently received a significant grant from the McArthur Foundation.)

Futrell stressed that "law should be the servant of society," and he recounted situations ELI has encountered while working with the nascent environmental law movements in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

In Montevideo, Uruguay, Futrell explained, once beautiful beaches are now closed to the public due to an inadequate public sewage system and rampant illegal dumping. In Eastern Europe, lack of private sector mechanisms and party infighting still preclude the development of enforceable, meaningful environmental regulation. In these areas, explained Futrell, environmental law is not yet "a tool for social dynamism or progress." Futrell said these illustrations make a basic point: "law does not serve society until it is implemented."

Futrell shared a number of personal recollections during his remarks. The anecdote which had the greatest impact on the audience involved a close friend and former environmental dissident from Eastern Europe. According to Futrell, the man's commitment to "environmental glasnost" led to him suffer at the hands of the old regime. Now the senior official in his country's new department of justice, the man explains his dogged persistence saying simply: "I went with the Greens, and I learned not to fear." (The story and was very well received by the audience.)

Dr. Henry W. Kendall

Kendall, Chairman of the Board of the Union of Concerned Scientists and recent Nobel prize winner in physics, spoke on the debate over nuclear versus solar power generation. He entitled his remarks "the trillion dollar contest." Kendall said that since the Arab oil embargo of 1973 there has been a continuing battle for the "hearts and minds of the American public" in the debate over whether nuclear fission or the Sun will become the primary source of energy in the United States. He claimed that over the last 30 to 40 years government and industry have invested "a third of a trillion dollars" in nuclear power, while "the sun... has had [only] the well wishes and support of a group of people who are relatively powerless compared to the government."

Kendall believes "both sides are losing" the nuclear versus solar contest. In the case of nuclear power, he asserted that technical and economic problems and "unacceptable risk" would kill the industry. According to Kendall, nuclear power technology has "bad economic problems" as well as serious safety problems. He stated that in 1985 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in testimony before Congress, estimated the risk of "a meltdown or catastrophic accident in the United States" over the next 20 years to be 50 percent.

Kendall sought to assure the anti-nuclear activists present stating that "we all have the American public basically on our side." He went on to criticize the Bush Administration's National Energy Strategy (NES) for having nuclear power as one of its "centerpieces." He wondered aloud how much John Sununu, "the pit bull of the administration," had to do with the emphasis on nuclear power in the NES. The mention of Sununu's name drew boos and hisses from the crowd.

Kendall asserted that solar and other renewable energy sources are "the only hope" for the development of a sustainable future. He believes that solar technologies "have a lot of promise." However, according to Kendall, solar technologies have not "been allowed to float and perhaps levitate up, to become part of our energy scheme... [because] they have been actively opposed by administrations going back a long way." He characterized this reluctance as "an intentional strangling of the baby in its crib." Kendall stated that the money spent by the government thus far on solar energy research equals approximately "one half to one day's" expenses for Operation Desert Storm.

Kendall drew a few groans from the audience by stating that he is "not one of the people who wants to give up the automobile." The freedom of movement that the automobile affords, however, "does have its dark side," according to Kendall. This statement was in reference to air pollution caused by automobile emissions. Futrell called on the automobile industry to develop more energy efficient automobiles and automobiles which utilize renewable energy resources.

Kendall praised the environmental movement for acting as the conscience of the country. He noted the presence of David Brower, President of the Earth Island Institute, and praise him as "the father of the environmental movement." Kendall closed his remarks by saying that it is only to "the environmental community that [people] can look for constructive change in the government."

Dr. Michael Atchia

Atchia, Chief, Environmental Education and Training Unit, UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya, gave a speech entitled "Education for Sustainable Development." In his speech he outlined 24 principles on which he believes "our judgements on this planet's diverse environments and our action on them" should be built. (A list of the 24 principles is attached.)

Atchia stated that he had developed the principles through discussions with scientists around the world. "Only on the basis of [these] principles can we achieve the goal of sustainability," he said.

The human race is "fouling [its] own nest," according to Atchia. Atchia criticized Western society asserting that, "a clear difference exists between the natural needs of man and those wants and needs States artificially created by advertizing and social pressures... Nowhere is this more true than in the United States." Atchia received rousing applause for his allegation that world leaders are utilizing their countries' resources "unsustainably."

Atchia claimed that current textbooks and educational systems lack the "conceptual basis" of his principles. Atchia urged educational systems from the primary to university level to integrate his principles into curriculums so as to build a societal basis "for sound environmental judgement."

Elizabeth May

May, Executive Director of Cultural Survival and a representative of Sierra Club in Canada, in a speech entitled "Living Lightly on the Land: What we can Learn From Indigenous Cultures," counseled the audience to look to indigenous cultures for clues as to how to consume "sustainably." "We don't need to have more development, what we need to do is develop sustainability," May asserted, "that's the challenge we all see as we head down the road to Brazil [The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development] in 1992."

According to May, the fundamental problem with American culture "is the fact that we waste so much without realizing we'll need it [later]."

May declared that current development practices are causing indigenous peoples around the world to become extinct "both culturally and in real terms." May claimed that these indigenous peoples, which are struggling for the survival of their cultures and environments, "are in fact struggling for the survival of the planet." "They have tools and knowledge and expertise that we desperately need if we are to reach the goal that was set by the Brundtland Report of 'sustainability'," she said. (The Brundtland Report, a document developed under the auspices of the United Nations in the mid-1980s, attempts to chart a course for global sustainable development policies.) May stated that she, however, "would like to think of the goal as sustainability not sustainable development."

May said that the environmental effects of all products must be investigated more thoroughly. She claimed that even products with good environmental reputations can be harmful to people and the environment. Citing alleged environmental damage caused by hydroelectric dams built to provide power to aluminum smelters in Brazil, May cried out saying "We should be avoiding aluminum like the plague because of what it is doing around the world."

According to May, current energy consumption patterns are also a threat to indigenous cultures. She claimed that the Gwich'in culture of northern Canada will be devastated if oil and gas exploration is allowed in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). "With any sense at all [the ANWR] would be an area we'd protect and nurture," she cried. May received a rousing ovation for this statement.

Society needs cultural diversity just as it needs biodiversity, May stated. She argued that society must move away from the "megaproject mentality."

This is the mentality... that says we must always have more power and we will never have enough supply... This is the same mentality that wants to open up the Arctic National Wildlife refuge... wants to build oversupply, and at all costs doesn't want to look at conservation.

This mentality will never provide "the kind of solutions we know we need... if we are to be able to live at one with the land," she claimed.

May went on to assert that "megaprojects" destroy indigenous cultures. She specifically cited the James Bay II hydroelectric project in Quebec, Canada as an example. May believes that if James Bay II goes forward, it will destroy the Cree culture in Quebec. She characterized James Bay II "as one of the most ecologically offensive, obscene things that has ever been conceived by the mind of man." May urged the activists present to mobilize in opposition to the project. She asserted that the people of New England have a special obligation to oppose the project since most of the power produced by the project will be purchased by public utility companies in the Northeast.

"There is clearly something wrong when the only choices we are given are [nuclear, coal, and hydroelectric]," she said. "They aren't choices, they're the options of the damned." May received a standing ovation at the close of her speech.

Dr. Noel J. Brown

Brown, Director, North American Liaison Office, United Nations Environment Programme, opened by congratulating May "for stating the issue [of preserving indigenous lands and cultures] so clearly and giving it the passion it deserves." Brown's speech addressed the need for "sustainable and equitable" development worldwide and the mechanisms for working toward such a future.

Dr. Brown praised the annual NEEN conference for its ability to "empower" those present saying conferences such as the NEEN conference allow activists "to transmit the global agenda into local action." Brown urged those present to develop "a genuine people's alliance in the service of the Earth."

Brown made repeated references to the upcoming 1992 UNCED meetings in Brazil. He said that UNCED was originally intended to be a celebration of the first United Nations conference on the environment held in Stockholm twenty years ago. But, according

to Brown, such a celebration "would be embarrassingly premature." He maintained, "Much more remains to be done to put the earth in order." Brown said that the Worldwatch Institute's publication, State of the World, 1991, "provides sobering indications of what remains to be done."

We need to show a much higher regard for the natural order... No longer can we pursue growth that is not sustainable, or human betterment at the expense of the earth or at the expense of future generations.

According to Brown, UNCED:

will be essentially about human obligations to the Earth, to design, in the first instance, an economic society that is both sustainable and equitable... [and to] design a future that works for everyone... [A future] at pace with itself and nature.

Referring to the recent Persian Gulf war, Brown wondered "What is the cost [of the war] to the Earth?" He decried damage done to the environment by the war, and said he would like to see as much effort put into cleaning up the damage caused by the war as was put into executing it. "Where," Brown asked, "is the Operation Desert Flower?"

Brown praised the development of a \$1 million "Green Fund" by the United Nations. He characterized this as a first step in helping Third World nations protect their own environments while still developing their economies. The fund addresses what Brown calls "earth debt." Brown sees payments on the earth debt as far more critical to the world's future than bi-lateral or multi-lateral Third World debt.

Brown said global climate change is the greatest single issue facing the world today and called for international cooperation on the issue. Brown advocates cabinet level meetings between governments around the world to discuss the causes and possible solutions to this potential problem. He claimed that "uncertainty has often been used as an excuse [by governments] for inaction."

Brown wants increased technology transfers to facilitate more environmentally responsible behavior by governments and industry. In reference to new technology which may supplant the use of chloro-fluorocarbons Brown said:

It seems ironic that companies like duPont, which has now become a very sensitive environmental company, which was one

of the larger manufacturers of the Chloro-fluorocarbons, would also spearhead the alternatives and in the process make a lot of money. I wonder whether duPont might set up a Green Fund to help us meet some of the responsibilities for the new technology.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The NEEN conference closed with the presentation of the "New England Environmental Leadership Awards." The awards were given to a variety of local activists including Dr. Henry Kendall of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The plenary sessions described above set forth the philosophical basis on which the workshops on specific environmental issues were held.

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Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), Sparrow & Louis Berger & Associates

Soil and Water Conservation Society / Southern New England Chapter
Southeast Ruck Systems, Inc
Stone Environmental Schools
Student Conservation Association
Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance
The Thoreau Society, Inc
Trust for Public Land
The Trustees of Reservations
Tufts University, Center for Environmental Management
Tufts University, Department of Civil Engineering
Tufts University, Lincoln Filene Center
Tufts University, Lincoln Filene Center, Environmental Affairs Program
Tufts University Summer School
Union of Concerned Scientists
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. EPA-Massachusetts / Rhode Island, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
U.S. EPA Wetlands Section
Urban Harbors Institute
University of Rhode Island, College of Natural Resource Science
University of Rhode Island, Environmental Educational Center
University of Vermont, Field Naturalist Program
Vermont Institute of Natural Science
Vermont Law School
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Walden Forever Wild, Inc.
Waste Management, Inc.
Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC)
Westport River Watershed Alliance
White Mountain National Forest
The Wilderness Society
Yankee Atomic Electric Company
Zero Population Growth of Greater Boston

exhibits as of March 8, 1991

BASIC PRINCIPLES/ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS FOR ACHIEVING POSITIVE
ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDE

(M. Atchia, 1978)

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1. The size and range of populations are regulated by available physical resources (e.g. space, water, air, food) and by biological factors (e.g. competition), hence the concept of carrying capacity of a natural environment.
 2. The flow of energy and material through an ecosystem links all communities and organisms in a complex of chains and webs which invariably start with plants.
 3. The planet is made up of a number of interacting and interdependent components.
 4. We live in "space-ship earth", a closed system characterised as having limits.
 5. Man's activities and technologies influence considerably the natural environment and may affect its capacity to sustain life, including human life.
 6. A mode of life heavily dependent upon rapidly diminishing non-renewable energy sources (e.g. fossil fuel) is unstable.
 7. The relations between man and his environment are mediated by his culture (his mode of life and habits).
 8. A clear difference exists between the natural needs of man and those wants and desires artificially created by advertising and social pressures.
 9. Economic efficiency often fails to result in conservation of resources.
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10. Rational utilisation of a renewable source (e.g. rate of fish catch equal to rate of natural regeneration of fish population) is a sensible way of preserving the resource while obtaining maximum benefits from it.
 11. Sound environmental management is beneficial to both man and environment.
 12. Resources use need long-term planning, in order to achieve truly sustainable development.
 13. Elimination of wastage through recycling and the development of clean technologies is important to modern societies, to help reduce resources consumption.
 14. Certain artificial contaminants (e.g. radio-isotopes, mercury, DDT) are too long-lived or of such a nature that natural processes are unable to eliminate them readily.
 15. The ocean has become the final dumping place for chemicals, oil, sewage, agricultural wastes etc., because these follow natural pathways from where they are released to reach the ocean.
 16. Wildlife populations are important aesthetically, biological (as gene pool), economically and in themselves.
 17. Nature reserves and other protected wilderness areas are of value in protecting endangered species because they preserve the habitats.
 18. Destruction of natural habitats by man is the single most important cause of extinction today.
 19. Destruction of any wild-life may lead to a collapse of some food chains.
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20. The survival of man is closely linked to the survival of wild-life, both being dependent on the same life-supporting systems.
21. The protection of soils and the maintenance of sustainable agriculture are essential factors in the survival of civilizations and settlements.
22. A vegetation cover (grass, forest) is important for the balance of nature and for the conservation of soil, besides being an exploitable natural resources.
23. Soil erosion is the irreversible loss of an essential resource (and must be prevented).
24. Cultural, historical and architectural heritage are as much in need of protection as is wild-life.

References:

1. Martin, W.E. A determination of the principles of the biological sciences of importance for general education. Unpublished Ph.D dissertation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1944.
2. Caldwell, L.T. Determination of earth science principles. Science Education, 39(3), 1955, p. 196-213.
3. Roth, R.E. Fundamental concepts for environmental management education (K-16). Doctoral dissertation, 202 pages, University of Wisconsin, 1969.
4. Atchia, M. Concepts and dynamics of environmental education (Ph.D. Thesis) University of Salford, U.K., 1978.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

AC/ER

April 1, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR GOVERNOR SUNUNU

FROM:

EDE HOLIDAY *EH*

ROGER B. PORTER *ABP*

SUBJECT:

Monthly Status Report on the Environmental Policy Review Group -- March

THE CHIEF of STAFF
has seen

With the growing number of environmental issues coming before the Environmental Policy Review Group (EPRG), we thought we would prepare the first of what could be regular monthly reports on EPRG meetings and on the status of the issues under its consideration for that month. While we hesitate to increase your reading file, if you think it is useful for us to inform you in this manner, please let us know. If not, you will continue to receive updates on meetings and issues in the weekly EPC/DPC assessment.

The EPRG met twice this month, on March 15 and March 22. The following issues were considered at those meetings:

Forest Convention

The group discussed a list of principles and categories produced by the PCC Working Group on Forests which might be incorporated in the Global Forest Convention called for by the President at the G-7 summit at Houston last year. The G-7 consensus still supports a separate convention and it was agreed that the U.S. should develop a working draft in cooperation with the G-7 by this Summer. The final target date for completion and signing of the convention remains the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

Substantial changes were recommended and written comments on the forest convention categories were to be submitted to OMB by Friday, March 22. The EPRG will schedule another meeting to review the progress made in developing these principles.

Basel Convention

A new draft of the legislative package implementing U.S. obligations under the Basel Convention on the Transboundary

Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was discussed. Proposed resolutions to the remaining issues in disagreement were reviewed and agreed upon. Final agency comments are now due on the Convention transmittal package that will be sent to the President from Secretary Baker. It is hoped that both the Convention and the implementing legislation can be submitted to Congress in the next week or so.